

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security has recently awarded several grants totaling more than \$1 million to local fire departments and emergency services. The funds are part of the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

Local fire departments that will receive funds:

- Santa Cruz Fire Department will receive \$753,329
- The Central Fire Protection District of Santa Cruz County will receive \$30,080
- Ammonia Safety & Training Institute in Watsonville will receive \$118,682
- Hollister Fire Department will receive \$101,669
- Gonzales Fire Department will receive two grants for \$34,998 and \$19,513

"I've always been an advocate for fully funded first responders, and AFG program has been a great help to fire departments throughout the Central Coast," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "I'm proud that I can use my seat on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee to support this valuable program."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program has awarded more than \$2.8 billion to first-responder organizations around the country since the grant program began in 2004. Grants will go toward hiring, operations, safety and fire prevention programs.

#